SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Madam, I am raising...

SHRI JIBON ROY (WEST BENGAL): Madam, I associate myself with it. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: He should also know that a case is pending before the court against the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. No decision has come in that case. He must know it. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How does it affect him? (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please sit down. Now, Shri Yerra Narayanaswamy. (*Interruptions*)... Mr. Narayanaswamy has very soft voice, that is why he has come here. Please raise your point.

RE: TOOL-DOWN STRIKE BY NTPC WORKERS AT RAMAGUNDAM IN ANDHRA PRADESH

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY (ANDHRA PRADESH): Madam, I am raising a serious issue relating to workers and employees of super thermal power station of NTPC at Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh. The workers are going on a tool-down strike in support of their demand for the last one week. The workers of various departments of 2,100 MW thermal plant are participating in this strike. The strike is having some impact as power generation in this plant has been affected due to poor maintenance of the plant. The management says that there is normal powr generation. Madam, a 500 MW unit of this plant has been shut down for about a fortnight for annual repairs. Due to this shut down, maintenance work has been paralysed. The schedule of bringing up the unit back to generation has been upset. This strike will affect the Southern Grid, especially Andhra Pradesh and other southern States where there is shortage of power.

I demand the Government particularly the Ministry of Energy, to concede the demands of the workers and employees and request it to settle the matter amicably so that power generation in the southern grid will not be affected further. I also demand the Government to increase the *ex gratia* payments to the deceased employees, seriously injured employees with third-degree burns in the mishap. The hon. Energy Minister is here. I reqest him, through you, to respond to this matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He can respond to you quietly.

RE: DECREASE IN AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR JODHPUR

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान): उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का और सरकार का ध्यान इंडियन एयरलाइन्स की सर्विसिज़ के बारे में आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं विशेषकर राजस्थान के संदर्भ में। राजस्थान की इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के बारे में धारणा बन गयी है कि कब उसका टाइम शैडयूल बदल जाएगा, हफ्ते में कितने दिन वह चलेगी और किस दिन उसका समय परिवर्तन हो जाएगा, इसका लोगों को भरोसा नहीं है। हर सीज़न के बाद उनका टाइम शैडयूल बनता है। महोदया, आजकल एक नया फैक्टर उन्होंने जोड़ दिया है कि रैग्यूलर सर्विस भी, जो टूरिस्ट ट्रैफिक है, उससे रेग्यूलेट होने लगी है। महोदया, टूरिस्ट हिन्दुस्तान में आएं, ज्यादा संख्या में आएं, उनको हम सब प्रकार की सुविधाएं प्रदान करें यह जरूरी है लेकिन सारे का सारा इंडियन एयरलाइन्स का स्ट्रक्चर केवल टूरिस्ट्स ट्रैफिक के आधार पर ओवरहॉल हो जाए, सारा शैडयूल बदल जाए, दिन बदल जाएं, इसके कारण हिन्दुस्तान की एयर ट्रैवल पब्लिक को बहुत असुविधाएं हो रही है। मैं जोधपुर के संदर्भ में यहां पर स्पैसिफिक बात करना चाहता हूं। इस समय जयपुर राजस्थान की राजधानी है लेकिन जोधपुर और जयपुर का कोई डायरैक्ट लिंक नहीं है। आजकल दिल्ली से जोधपुर भी हफ्ते में तीन दिन चलता है। इसका मतलब क्या हुआ? उन्होंने कारण दे दिया कि क्योंकि टूरिस्ट ट्रैफिक नहीं है इसलिए हम यह सब परिवर्तन कर रहे हैं।

मैं समझता हूं कि इंडियन एयरलाइन्स अपने पैसेंजर्स को तकलीफ देने के मामले में काफी बदनाम हो चुका है। ओ०के० पैसेंजर्स ऑफलोड कर दिये जाते हैं और उनका रूट डायवर्ट कर दूसरी तरफ प्लेन भेज दिया जाता है सारे के सारे पैसेंजर्स जो पहले से बुक्ड हैं, वह एक जगह रह जाते हैं। तो मैं आपके माध्यम से आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि....

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): सदर साहिबा, मैं खाली यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि यहां एक केबीनेट मिनिस्टर तशरीफ तो रखते हैं लेकिन जीरो ऑवर मैंशंस को नोट करके कंसर्न्ड मिनिस्टरी को पहुंचाने का क्या कोई बंदोबस्त है? यह जो बात [illegible] जी कह रहे हैं।

Will it all be over after the Zero Hour or will some action be taken on what Mr. Bhandari is speaking? He is talking about a very important matter.

उसके अरेंजमैंट का कुछ पता चलना चाहिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why I say that if any member wants to make a statement, it will be better if he makes it through a Special Mention because in this case the Government has to respond with a time-frame. I mentioned this last week also. If you raise an issue during the Zero Hour, there is no response from the Government because there is no legal sanctity to Zero Hour.

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी: (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैडम, स्पैशल मैंशन का भी नहीं आ रहा है। मैंने ...(व्यवधान)

उपसभापति: मेरी बात आप पूरी होने दीजिए। लीडर ऑफ आपोजीशन ने सवाल पूछा है।

I think it is my duty as the Presiding Officer to clarify the matter. As I said, Zero Hour has no sanctity. It is not covered by any rule. But there is a rule for making Special Mentions. I have always been requesting the Members to raise matters under some rule like the one for Special Mentions. Then, I can protect the Members and I can write to the Government to give a suitable answer. If you raise issues in any manner you like, the Government is not oblizged to answer them.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: महोदया, जीरो ऑवर तो परमिशन से है।

उपसभापति: परमिशन अलग है, परमिशन तो मैं आपको किसी भी चीज़ की दे सकती हूं मगर

The Government is not bound to answer. ...(व्यवधान).. सिकंदर बख्त साहब, मुझे पूरा ऐक्सप्लेन करने दीजिए। There is a technical point. The press also does not know these technicalities.

Anything which is raised in the House, the Government has to respond to under certain rules and regulations. But, there is no rule yet framed for the Zero Hour.' If you want a rule to be framed, please bring it to the Rules Committee. I cannot ask the Government to respond on the Zero Hour or any mention in the House. We should have a proper structure.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: सदर साहिबा, मुझे मालूम है कि जीरो आवर टोटली आउटसाइडिंग दी रूल है। इसलिए मैंने किसी रूल का सहारा लेकर नहीं कहा है लेकिन फिर भी, हमने जीरो आवर को रेगुलेट करने की कोशिश की है। जीरो आवर में यहां पर हरेक सदस्य खड़े होकर बोलना शुरू कर देता था। चूंकि इसको रेगुलेट करने की कोशिश की गई है। बगैर कायदा-कानून के भी कई बातें यहां पर रेज की जा सकती हैं क्योंकि हाउस में हर वक्त किसी न किसी मिनिस्टर की मौजूदगी होती है। मैंने एक सलीके की बात

कही है। मैं खाली रूल की बात नहीं कह रहा हूं। कुछ अहम बातें जीरो आवर में भी सदस्यों द्वारा की जा सकती है तो गवर्नमेंट को किसी न किसी फार्म में रेसपांस करना चाहिए।

†[نیتاورودھی دل مشری سکندر بخت:

صدر صاحبہ - مجھے معلوم ہے کہ زیرو آور "نو نلی آوٹ سائڈ نگ دی رول" ہے - اسلئے میں نے کسی رول کا سہارا لیکر نہیں کہا ہے لیکن پھر بھی ہم نے زیرو آور کو ریگولیٹ کرنے کی کوشش کی ہے - زیرو آور میں یہاں پر ہر ایک ممبر جب کھڑے ہو کر بولنا شروع کر دیتا تھا - لیکن اسکو ریگولیٹ کرنے کی کوشش کی گئی ہے بغیر قاعدہ قانون کے بھی کئی باتیں یہاں پر دیکھنے کی جاسکتی ہیں لیکن ہاؤس میں ہر وقت کسی نہ کسی منسٹر کی موجودگی ہوتی ہے - میں نے ایک سجیشن کی بات کہی ہے - میں خالی رول کی بات نہیں کر رہا ہوں - کچھ اہم باتیں زیرو آور میں بھی ممبرس دوارہ کہی جاسکتی ہیں تو گورنمنٹ کو کسی نہ کسی فارم میں ریسپانس کرنا چاہیئے E

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree with you.. (*Interruptions*)... Just one second. (*Interruptions*)... I agree with you that if any important matter is raised by a Member, it should be responded to by the Government. I agree with it. But my suggestion is, in the absence of a proper rule, why do the Members not aks under a rule which is available. Why should you raise without a rule? This is a device available to you which you can make use of (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, as suggested by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, instead of bringing it in a casual manner, it would be better if we bring it under a Special Mention which is governed by a rule and the time which you are wasting in the Zero Hour which is becoming, sometimes, an unguided missile if we, ourselves, bring it under the rules then the Government gets a proper notice and time to respond after it is being mentioned. I think, you can take it up by calling the leaders and try to arrive at a consensus on it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have mentioned it from the Chair many a time.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE. (Maharashtra): Madam, I want to submit something. Anything raised in the House, with the permission of the Chair, has its own sanctity. Either we stop the Zero Hour and if we do not stop the Zero Hour and allow people to raise issues during the Zero Hour and if there is no rule at the moment, I submit to you respectfully, let us establish a convention. You can always direct that we are establishing a convention that because it is permitted by the hon. Chairman of the House, it has its own sanctity and the Government is duty-bound to respond. That is my submission.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Many a time, considering the importance of a matter, I have given direction to the Minister concerned to respond. It is not possible to give a direction on every matter. But for sure, the Government should take note of the comments made by the Members. (*Interruptions*)... They should, generally. The Government does not need all the time directions to answer

† [] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

but in many cases I do direct them to answer.

SHRI SOM PAL (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, the point which has been raised by hon. Pranab Mukherjee is very relevant. Hon. Mukherjeeji, please, I wish to have your attention. The point raised by hon. Pranab Mukherjee is correct. If there is no provision in the rules, why are we practising this Zero Hour at all? Or, we should reform the rules. It is up to the House. We can take a decision, instead of keeping loose and everytime creating a chaos. This is being watched on the television by the whole nation. We are not setting an example of a disciplined Parliament before the people when we talk like this. So, when there is no provision for the Zero Hour, either we do away with this or evolve a proper rule in this regard. That is my request. We, including the hon. Chairman and the hon. Deputy Chairman, must take some action in our collective wisdom.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Madam, it is true but. (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are we taking up a discussion on that in the House? (*Interruptions*)... I think, Mr. Sikander Bakht has opened a Pandora's box because everybody wants to speak on that.

Madam, even there is no response from the Government even to a Speacial Mention. That is my point. Frankly speaking, there is no qualitative difference between the Zero Hour and Special Mentions.

If we are allowing it, if the Zero Hour submissions are allowed by the Chair, it should be regularised and the Government must respond. Or, you can merge the two things. But the Government should not have a loophole just to escape from this responsibility. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (GOA): Madam, I would like to point out that I got the reply in regard to a Special Mention made by me after a gap of fifteen months. There should be some time-frame laid down for the Government to reply. This thing also should be set out in the rules.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All these matters we cannot settle on the floor of the House; especially, during Zero Hour, because there would be total zero.

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Madam, may I have your indulgence for half-a-minute? (*Interruptions*)... Regarding the issue raised by pranabda and with which Shri Som Pal associated himself, I would like to point out that already, there is a partial regularisation of the Zero Hour because there is a proforma in which we have to give notice. However, many Members, without using that proforma, spontaneously stand up and, with the indulgence of the hon. Deputy Chairman..,

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sometimes, no indulgence.

SHRI M.A. BABY: With the indulgence of the hon. Deputy Chairman, they, justifiably, raise very serious matters. Therefore, what is required is an amendment to the rules to regularise it. Then, this could be taken care of.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Is the indulgene selective, Madam?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Of course, it has to be selective. It has to be selective, depending on the subject and the person.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Thank you.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Unfortunately, it is the other way round.

उपसभापतिः भंडारी जी, अब हम आपके हवाई जहाज की बात सुन रहे हैं। आप बोलिये।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: मैडम, मैं इस संदर्भ में दो-तीन बातें आपकी मार्फत सरकार से कहना चाहता हूं। टूरिस्ट ट्रैफिक फौरन का भी है, हिन्दुस्तान का भी है और इसको लिहाज में रखकर सर्विसेज बढ़ाई जा सकती है। सर्विसेज की फीक्वेंसी बढ़ाई जा सकती है लेकिन कोई न कोई बेसिक स्ट्रक्चर इंडियन एयर लाइन्स को हवाई नक्शें का बनाना चाहिये जिसमें सारे महत्वपूर्ण स्थान कवर हो जाये और उसको डिस्टर्ब करने की जरूरत नहीं है। एडिशनल ट्रैफिक के लिए आप एडिशनल प्लेन्स की व्यवस्था करिये। आप वैट प्लेन्स करते हैं बाहर भेजने के लिए या कुछ करने के लिए तो यह इंडियन एयर लाइन्स के बेसिक स्ट्रक्चर में नहीं होना चाहिए।

आज इंडियन एयर लाइन्स के स्ट्रक्चर को बढ़ाने की जरूरत है। अगर बड़े-बड़े प्लेन्स आज अनुपयोगी हो गये है तो छोटे प्लेन्स लेने की आवश्यकता है। उस पर तीन-तीन साल से फैसला न हो और उसके कारण सारे हिन्दुस्तान की एयर ट्रैवलिंग पैसेन्जर्स को तकलीफ हो तो ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिये। खासकर जोधपुर के लिए जो वायु सेना का हैड क्वार्टर है, थल सेवा का हैड क्वार्टर है, बार्डर सिक्योरिटी फोर्सेस का सारा वेस्टर्न बार्डर जहां से कंट्रोल होता है, ऐसी जगहों को भी आप रेग्युलर एयर सर्विसेस प्रोवाइड नहीं कर रहे हैं जो इंडियन एयर लाइन्स एक बहुत बड़ी अनिवार्य सेवा है जो देश की एकता और सुरक्षा के लिए आवश्यक भी है। इसमें गलती होती है। मैं आपकी मार्फत सरकार से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जोधपुर ट्रैफिक को रेग्यूलर एयर लाइन्स की सर्विसेज पर इमिडियेटली लाया जाये और एडिशनल टूरिस्ट ट्रैफिक के लिए रेग्यूलर ट्रैफिक को डिस्टर्ब किये बिना एडिशनल प्लेन्स की व्यवस्था की जाये खासकर अब जबकि हमने प्राइवेट एयर लाइन्स के लिए स्कोप खोला है। बहुत से काम उनकी मार्फत करवाये जा सकते हैं। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान के हवाई जहाज से ट्रैवल करने वाले आम नागरिकों के लिए कोई आधार निश्चित होना चाहये कि कौन सा प्लेन कब जायेगा, कितने बजे जायेगा, कितनी बार जायेगा इसमें रोजाना तबदीली होना, टेक्नीकल कारणों से जो प्लेन्स ग्राउन्ड कर दिये जाये हैं, मैं उनकी बात नहीं कर रहा हूं, वह तो ऐसी बीमारी है जिसका इलाज हम यहां नहीं कर पायेंगे, टेक्नीकल रीजन्स से जो प्लेन ग्राउन्ड कर दिये गये हैं उनको तो अलग से, जब इंडियन एयर लाइन्स के सारे फंक्शनिंग पर विचार होगा तब बात होगी। लेकिन नार्मल केसेज में प्लेन डायवर्ट कर दिये जायें या ओ०के० पैसेन्जर्स को आफ लोड कर दिया जाये या विदाउट नोटिस फ्रीक्वेन्सी घटा दी जाये तो कोई न कोई इसके लिए पख्ता इंतजाम होना चाहिये। यही मैं आपकी मार्फत सरकार से कहना चाहता हूं।

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Madam, I associate myself with every word of what Bhandariji said, except that it applies *mutatis mutandis* to services between Delhi and Nagpur-Raipur.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: मैडम, मेरा यह भी कहना है कि राजस्थान को जाने वाली इंडियन एयर लाइन्स के किसी भी प्लेन में एजिक्यूटिव क्लास नहीं है। शायद यह अकेला ऐसा प्रान्त है जो एग्जिक्यूटिव क्लास सर्व नहीं करता। इसके साथ यह उपेक्षा क्यों की जा रही है?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we have a number of Zero Hour submissions and Special Mentions. I would like to take the sense of the House.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Madam, we can forego the lunch-break.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not the lunch-break, but the lunch hour.

1.00 P.M.

So we can forgo the lunch hour. Of course, you can go and have lunch. I think today and tomorrow are the last two days. I would like all of these to be finished. If they are not finished in the lunch hour, we can take up the legislative business and allow them to spill over.

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): Madam, with regard to the Zero Hour, as pointed out by hon. Members, as there is no rule or...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Under one condition the Members are allowing you to move the Bill. You return back to the House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: It is not with regard to the Bill...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Because he has a Bill in the Lok Sabha, that is the reason why I am being indulgent. He requested me because he

has to go and pilot a Bill in the Lok Sabha. But please send some Minister here.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam, here I want to submit one thing only. With regard to the Zero Hour, I quite agree with what the hon. Members have submitted. Though there is no rule or convention, I will pass on the information. I have taken down notes of what the hon. Members have spoken so far. I will pass on the information to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who may give a sufficient response. ...(*Interruptions*)... When I am available here, I can pass on the information. That is what I can do. For the days that I am not available, I cannot say anything.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, if the House so agrees, we can allow him to move his Bill and clear it so that he can go to the Lok Sabha.

THE SEAMEN'S PROVIDENT FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): Madam, I beg to move:

That the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha in the Seamen's Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1996, be taken into consderation, namely:—

ENACTING FORMULA

1. Page 1, line 1, *for* 'Forty-seventh'
Substitute 'Forty-eighth'

CLAUSE-1

2. Page 1, line 4,—
for '1996' *substitute* '*1997*'

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam, I beg to move:

The the amendments made by the Lok Sabha in the Bill be agreed to.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar. ...(*Interruptions*)... Some Zero Hour. It is one and the same thing. On my paper here sometimes it is Zero Hour, sometimes it is Special Mentions. I don't differentiate between Zero Hour and Speical Mentions. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan): But Zero Hour is not reported in the Bulletin—Part—I. Only Special Mentions are mentioned. When they are with your permission, they ought to be mentioned.

RE – INTELLIGENCE BUREAU'S INABILITY IN D.R.D.O. SPY CASE

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (ANDHRA PRADESH): Madam, I am raising a serious issue. This is about spying in the Defence Research and Development Organisation in Hyderabad.

On May 2, 1997, officials of the Intelligence Bureau and the City Policy of Hyderabad intercepted, and subsequently arrested, one Mr. Srinivasulu, a Scientist in the DRDO on charges of spying. The IB officials reportedly seized soem floppy disks and documents which contained coded information about scientific activities in the DRDO and its wings. Madam, it has been stated that Srinivasulu left the DRDO, and the country, without resigning his job. He is also stated to have obtained a passport without meeting the stipulation of no-obection certificate from the employer. It has, however, been stated by the DRDO authorities that Srinivasulu was not with the Organisation. An official of the Organisation is stated to have said, "We have checked up our records. No one by that name is with us since 1991." But there was no explanation on how Srinivasulu managed to collect the inside information. Since the matter involves the security of the country, it needs to be